

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8-11, 13-16 and 18-68 are pending in the present Application.

Claims 9, 13, 18, 44, and 54 have been canceled, and claims 1, 10, 14-15, 27, 35, 38, 43, 46-47, 49, 53, 60, 64, and 68 have been amended, leaving Claims 1-3, 5-6, 8, 10-11, 14-16, 19-26, 27-43, 45-53, and 55-68 for consideration upon entry of the present Amendment.

Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested, as it places the application in condition for allowance, and introduces no new matter.

Claims 35, 38, 43, 46, 49, 53, 60, 64, and 68 have been amended to correct a claim dependency and an inadvertent typographical error.

Information Disclosure Form 1449 with Incomplete Initialing

It is respectfully noted that the Search Report (PCT/US03/27216) on SHEET 1 of the Information Disclosure Statement that was sent on Jan. 20, 2004 was not initialed. It would be appreciated if the Examiner could provide an updated Information Disclosure Citation sheet with all references initialed. A duplicate of the sheet and the references cited on the sheet is provided for the Examiner's convenience.

Allowable Claims

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowability for Claims 19-26, 29-36, and 55-68.

Applicants note that the Examiner had rejected claims 48-49, which depend from allowable claim 23. Applicants therefore respectfully request allowance of claims 48-49.

Claim Objections

Claims 9, 13, 18, 44, and 54 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have accordingly made the following claim amendments:

Claim 9 has been incorporated into independent claim 1. Claim 1 is therefore now allowable, as well as claims 2-3, 5-6, and 8, which depend therefrom.

Claim 13 has been incorporated into claim 10. Claim 10 is therefore now allowable, including claims 11 and 37-38, which depend therefrom.

Claim 18 has been incorporated into independent claim 15. Claim 15 is therefore now allowable, as well as claims 16 and 45-47, which depend therefrom.

Claim 44 has been incorporated into independent claim 14. Claim 14 is therefore now allowable, as well as claims 39-43, which depend therefrom.

Claim 54 has been incorporated into independent claim 27. Claim 27 is therefore now allowable, as well as claims 28 and 50-53, which depend therefrom.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 14-16, 27, 28, 37-43 and 45-53 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly unpatentable over Shaw et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,125,138; hereinafter the “Shaw”) in view of Schoenfeld et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,180,025; hereinafter the “Schoenfeld”) further in view of St. Lawrence et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,571,609; hereinafter the “St. Lawrence”). The foregoing amendments render this rejection moot.

It is believed that the foregoing remarks fully comply with the Office Action and that the claims herein should now be allowable to Applicants. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are requested.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Response or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

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(Use several sheets if necessary)

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DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP Section 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

